AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-18. (cancelled).

19. (currently amended) The mechanical component of claim ~~18~~ 47, wherein said mechanical component is a pin.

Claims 20-21. (cancelled).

22. (withdrawn) A mechanical component used for a continuously variable transmission (CVT) chain, comprising

a mechanical component having at least one contact end that includes at least one inclined section.

23. (withdrawn) The mechanical component of claim 22, wherein said at least one contact end includes said at least one inclined section converging in the CVT chain's entry side.

24. (withdrawn) The mechanical component of claim 21, wherein said at least one curved section extends over an entire area of said at least one contact end of the CVT chain.

25. (withdrawn) The mechanical component of claim 22, wherein said at least one inclined section is formed on said at least one contact end.

26. (withdrawn) A mechanical component used for a continuously variable transmission (CVT) chain, comprising at least one inclined section

which includes two inclined sections formed on said at least one contact end, wherein said component is a pin.

27. (withdrawn) A mechanical component used for a continuously variable transmission (CVT) chain, comprising at least one curved section extending at least locally in a vertical direction of the CVT chain, wherein said component is a pin.

28. (withdrawn) A mechanical component used for a continuously variable transmission (CVT) chain, comprising at least one inclined section extending at least locally in a vertical direction of the CVT chain, wherein said component is a pin.

29. (withdrawn) A mechanical component used for a continuously variable transmission (CVT) chain, comprising

a mechanical component having at least one contact end that includes at least one section consisting of at least one groove extending in the vertical direction.

30. (withdrawn) The mechanical component of claim 29, wherein said mechanical component is a pin.

31. (withdrawn) The mechanical component of claim 29, wherein said mechanical component is a strip.

32. (withdrawn) A mechanical component used for a continuously variable transmission (CVT) chain, comprising

a mechanical component having at least one contact end that includes at least one section consisting of at least one groove extending in the moving direction.

33. (withdrawn) The mechanical component of claim 32, wherein said mechanical component is a pin.

34. (withdrawn) The mechanical component of claim 32, wherein said mechanical component is a strip.

35. (withdrawn) The mechanical component of claim 32, wherein said at least one groove is formed in said at least one contact end while extending in said moving direction of the CVT chain.

36. (withdrawn) The mechanical component of claim 29, wherein said at least one groove is formed in said at least one contact end while extending in said vertical direction of the CVT chain.

37. (withdrawn) A mechanical component used for a continuously variable transmission (CVT) chain, comprising

a mechanical component having at least one contact end that includes two grooves formed in said at least one contact end extending in said vertical and said moving directions of the CVT chain, respectively.

38. (withdrawn) The mechanical component of claim 37, wherein said mechanical component is a pin.

39. (withdrawn) The mechanical component of claim 37, wherein said mechanical component is a strip.

40. (withdrawn) A mechanical component used for a continuously variable transmission (CVT) chain, comprising

a mechanical component having at least one contact end that includes one groove formed on at least one of the upper end and lower ends whilst extending in an axial direction.

41. (withdrawn) The mechanical component of claim 40, wherein said mechanical component is a pin.

42. (withdrawn) The mechanical component of claim 40, wherein said mechanical component is a strip.

43. (withdrawn) A mechanical component used for a continuously variable transmission (CVT) chain, comprising

a mechanical component having at least one contact end that includes at least one curved section formed on at least one of an upper end and a lower end while extending at least locally in a moving direction of the CVT chain.

44. (withdrawn) The mechanical component of claim 43, wherein said mechanical component is a pin.

45. (withdrawn) The mechanical component of claim 43, wherein said mechanical component is a strip.

46. (withdrawn) The mechanical component of claim 22, wherein said mechanical component is a pin.

47. (new) A mechanical component for continuously variable transmission (CVT) chains adapted for contact with cone pulley surfaces comprising:

said mechanical component having at least one contact end; said contact end having a curvature extending in a moving direction, and not having curvature extending in a vertical direction perpendicular to said moving direction, thereby providing smooth entry of the pin into the cone pulley.